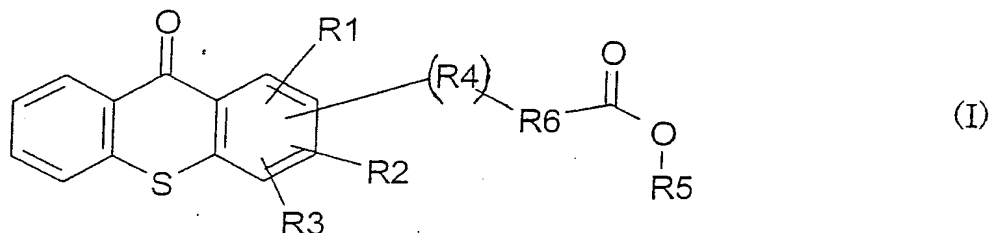


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This claim listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A process for the production of thioxanthone derivatives of the general formula (I) given below:



where:

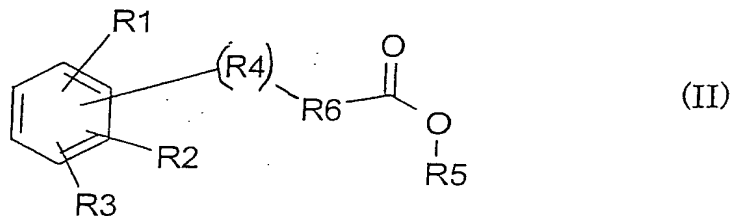
R_1 , R_2 and R_3 is hydrogen, C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, C_1 - C_{10} alkoxy, halogen, hydroxy or C_1 - C_2 dialkylamino; R_1 , R_2 and R_3 being the same or different;

R_4 is oxygen, sulphur or absent;

R_5 is hydrogen, C_1 - C_{10} alkyl or aryl; and

R_6 is a straight or branched alkyl chain having 0 to 10 carbon atoms;

the one-step process comprising reacting a compound of the general formula (II) below with mercaptobenzoic acid or dithiobisbenzoic acid in the presence of sulphuric acid:



2. (Currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein R_6 is $-(CH_2)_n-$, n being 0 to 10.
3. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the compound of formula (II) is phenoxyacetic acid where R_1 , R_2 , R_3 and R_5 are each hydrogen, R_4 is oxygen and n is 1.
4. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein R_6 is $-CH(CH_3)-$.

5. (Original) A process as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the sulphuric acid is used in amounts 1 part to 20 parts by weight of acid to 1 part by weight of dithiobisbenzoic acid or mercaptobenzoic acid.
6. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sulphuric acid has a concentration of equal to or greater than 90%.
7. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the molar ratios of dithiobisbenzoic acid or mercaptobenzoic acid to a compound of formula (II) are 1:1 to 1:5.
8. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 1 further comprising stirring the reactants to aid completion of the reaction.
9. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the temperature of the reaction is kept at 0 °C to 30 °C during addition of the reactants.
10. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 9, wherein the temperature is increased to 30 °C to 90 °C following addition of the reactants.
11. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 1 further comprising quenching the reactant mixture with excess water and filtering the solid product.
12. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 9, wherein water is added to dilute the acid strength to 20 - 50%.
13. - 18. (Canceled).